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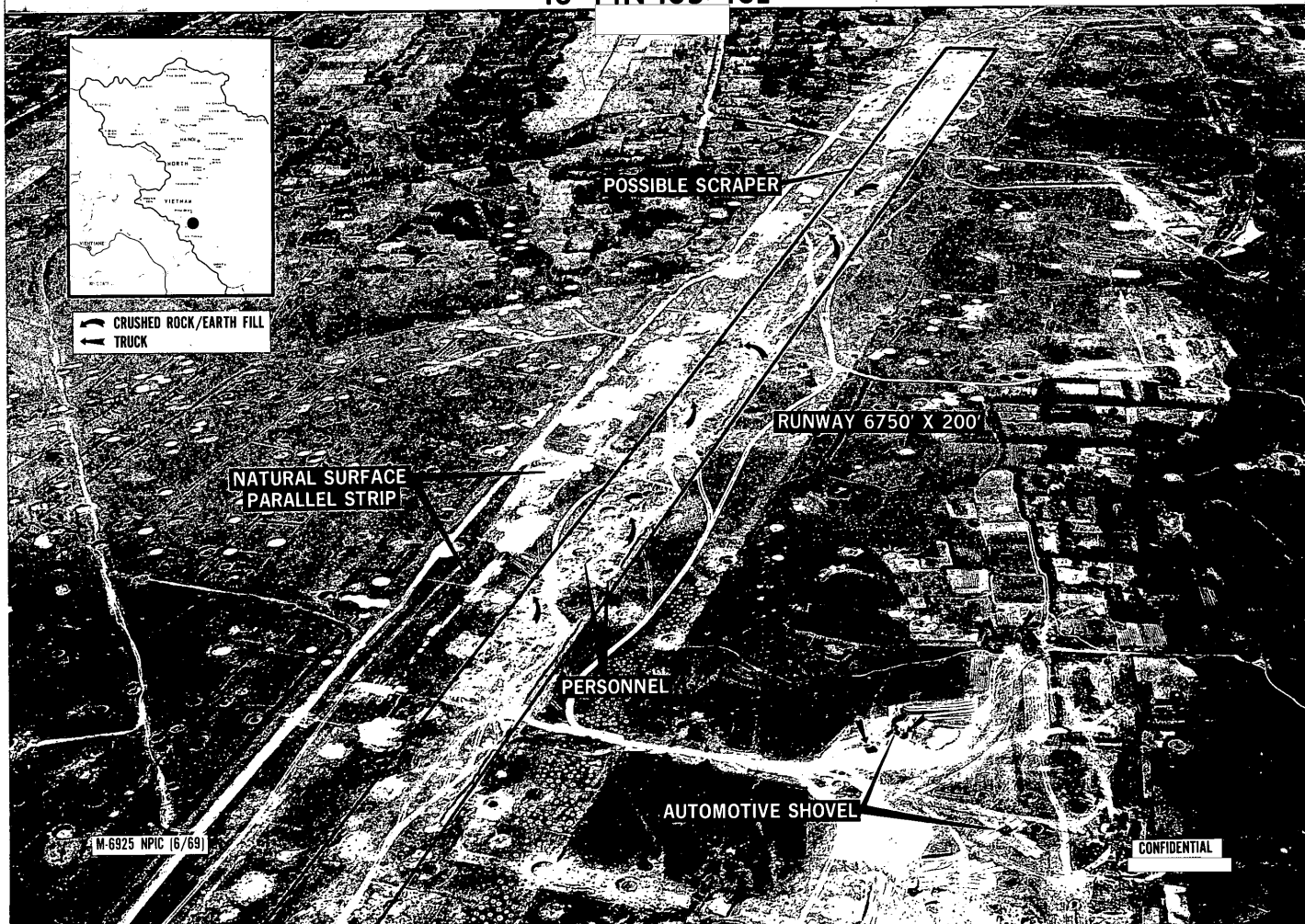
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RUNWAY REPAIR VINH AIRFIELD, NORTH VIETNAM 18-44N 105-40E

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REFERENCE:

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RUNWAY REPAIR
VINH AIRFIELD, NORTH VIETNAM
1844N 10540N

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS INITIAL ATTEMPTS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO REPAIR THE RUNWAY AT VINH AIRFIELD.

2. LOCATION:

3.5 NM NORTH OF VINH.

3. BACKGROUND

VINH AIRFIELD WAS FIRST STRUCK IN MAY 1965. NO ATTEMPT TO REPAIR THE AIRFIELD WAS MADE UNTIL JANUARY 1968. WITH THE REPAIR OF THE NATURAL SURFACE STRIP PARALLELING THE RUNWAY, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR A LIMITED TIME HAD A FIGHTER RECOVERY BASE IN THE VICINITY OF THE DMZ. AIRSTRIKES IN EARLY APRIL 1968, HOWEVER, RESULTED IN HEAVY DAMAGE, AND WERE FOLLOWED BY A LACK OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY UNTIL MID 1968. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETE BOMBING HALT OF 1 NOVEMBER 1968, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AGAIN COMPLETED THE REPAIR OF THE NATURAL SURFACE PARALLEL STRIP, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE CURRENT EFFORT, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD MADE NO ATTEMPT TO REPAIR THE RUNWAY ITSELF.

These notes have been prepared for briefing purposes only and should not be used for detailed analytical work. Their use should be restricted to the particular briefing boards(s) they were prepared for and must be considered valid only for the reporting period as indicated by the date of issue. For information concerning these notes contact Chief, Imagery Exploitation Group NPIC.

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
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4. MISSION READOUT

PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED]

REVEALS

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INITIAL STAGES OF REPAIR TO THE 6750 x 200 FT, NORTH-SOUTH RUNWAY AT VINH AIRFIELD. REPAIR ACTIVITY PRIMARILY CONSISTS OF PERSONNEL BEING UTILIZED TO FILL CRATERS WITH CRUSHED ROCK AND EARTH. AT LEAST 15 CRATERS ARE BEING FILLED AND APPROXIMATELY 20 CRATERS HAVE CRUSHED ROCK/EARTH FILL PILED NEAR OR AROUND THEM. FOUR TRUCKS AND TWO AUTOMOTIVE SHOVELS ARE LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE RUNWAY AND A POSSIBLE EARTH SCRAPER IS LOCATED TOWARD THE NORTH END OF THE RUNWAY. THE NATURAL SURFACE PARALLEL STRIP IS SERVICEABLE. NO AIRCRAFT ARE OBSERVED. SEVERAL OCCUPIED ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY SITES ARE OBSERVED IN THE AREA OF THE AIRFIELD (NOT SHOWN ON GRAPHIC).

5. REMARKS:

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN EARLY MAY 1969, BEGAN PREPARATION FOR REPAIR OF THE RUNWAY AT VINH AIRFIELD. IT APPEARS THE REPAIR ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING AT A MODERATE RATE WITH NO PRIORITY FOR QUICK REPAIR. A SERVICEABLE RUNWAY AT VINH MAY ENABLE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO ESTABLISH AN OPERATIONAL JET FIGHTER BASE CLOSER TO THE DE-MILITARIZED ZONE.

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MAP REFERENCE: AMS SERIES L7014 SHEET 6146 III SCALE: 1:50,000

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